

Green, LindaE

From: Dan Vergano via iFOIA.org <danvergono.121822@mail.ifoia.org>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 11:52 PM
To: FOIA HQ
Subject: Public Records Request - 1/23/17
Attachments: EPA grant freeze-1-1.pdf

Reply ABOVE THIS LINE

Dear FOIA Officer:

Attached is a formal request for public records. Please feel free to contact me at this email address or at 202-629-4563 with any questions.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dan Vergano

This message was sent via iFOIA.org. If you have questions about iFOIA, please refer to the [About page](#) or email ifoia-help@rcfp.org.

This message was sent via [iFOIA.org](#).

BuzzFeedNEWS

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202-629-4563

January 24, 2017

FOIA Officer
Environmental Protection Agency
National Headquarters
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Environmental Protection Agency, (2822T)
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 566-1667
hq.foia@epa.gov

FOIA REQUEST

Fee benefit requested

Fee waiver requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of all communications, including emails and instant messages, sent to and from EPA headquarters personnel from 1/20/2017 to 1/23/17 regarding a freeze in contracts and grants at the agency.

This freeze is described in news accounts here:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/environmental-protection-grants-staff_us_5886825be4b0e3a7356b575f?pon75akll8ei5dn29 and here:

<https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-administration-imposes-freeze-on-epa->

grants-and-contracts .

I would like to receive the information in electronic form, preferably in XML format or as a machine-readable PDF.

I agree to pay reasonable duplication fees for the processing of this request in an amount not to exceed \$10. However, please notify me prior to your incurring any expenses in excess of that amount.

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. Through this request, I am gathering information on the operations of the EPA that is of current interest to the public because of the transition in leadership and operations of the agency now underway and widely discussed in the news. This information is being sought on behalf of BuzzFeed News for dissemination to the general public.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. These communication will illuminate public understanding of government operations and activities in the time period of the request.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I would appreciate your communicating with me by email or telephone, rather than by mail.

Please provide expedited processing of this request which concerns a matter of urgency. As a reporter, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public. The public has an urgent need for information about EPA contracts and grants because the uncertain scope of the reported freeze leaves the public and potential grantees/contractees uninformed about pending decisions by the agency, and prevents informed contribution of citizens' views on the freeze to relevant officials. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your determination regarding my request for expedited processing within 10 calendar days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dan Vergano